

## SABLEFISH MANAGEMENT AND TRAWL ALLOCATION ATTAINMENT COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT TO THE COUNCIL (JUNE 2019)

The Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (SaMTAAC) has met three times since it was first formed by the Council in the spring of 2018 (in June 2018, October 2018, and May 2019). At the November 2018 Council meeting, the SaMTAAC reported to the Council that it had developed principles for use as decision criteria in designing the alternatives and narrowed 24 alternatives down to 6 ([Supplemental Information Report 6, November 2018](#)). At its May 21-22 meeting the SaMTAAC:

- adopted a purpose and need statement,
- further reduced and refined the alternatives, and
- developed a calendar for moving forward.

This report focuses on those results.

### **Purpose and Need Statement**

The SaMTAAC will be recommending that the Council adopt the following purpose and need statement.

Action is needed to ensure that gear switching does not impede the attainment of other individual fishing quota (IFQ) allocations in the north with trawl gear. The purpose of this action is to:

1. limit the catch of sablefish IFQ pounds north of 36° N. lat. with fixed gear in a fair and equitable manner *and/or*
2. encourage utilization of sablefish south of 36° N. lat.

Item 2 of the purpose should be considered to include both utilization of southern sablefish allocation within the southern area and through mechanisms that would allow a portion of that allocation to be caught in areas north of 36° N. lat.

### **Alternatives**

The committee has been exploring alternatives based on three different approaches:

1. Allowing the trawl allocation of southern sablefish to be caught in northern areas (two alternatives).
2. Limiting gear switching by placing gear designations on quota pounds ([QP] one alternative).
3. Limiting gear switching by prohibiting or limiting the number of vessels allowed to gear switch and/or the amount of gear switching by individual vessels (two alternatives).

Among the significant decisions made by the SaMTAAC at its May meeting, the committee tabled further development of alternatives that would allow the trawl allocation of southern sablefish to be caught in the north. The committee will evaluate the expected effectiveness of the other

alternatives before determining whether alternatives allowing southern allocation to be caught in the north are necessary to meet the need.

With respect to alternatives that fall under the second and third approaches, the committee made considerable progress in narrowing options and further developing and refining the alternatives. Alternatives under these approaches include options for sunset provisions.

Under the third approach, the committee is considering alternatives that would create endorsements for limited entry permits based on either the vessel or permit gear switching history. Those without such endorsements would either have lower gear switching allowances or be prohibited from gear switching.

The committee identified one additional alternative. Under the new alternative, owners of quota share (QS) accounts for which a link could be established between the QS account and a gear switching vessel would receive QP that could be used in gear switching. The link would be established through records on the transfer of QP between the QS account and a gear switching vessel prior to the September 15, 2017 control date.

**Calendar**

The committee discussed the Council and committee schedule and has identified the following process for moving ahead.

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Activity</b>
June 2019	Council Meeting: SaMTAAC information report to Council
Summer 2019	Analysis NMFS/State/Council staff consultation on potential implementation issues
September 2019	Council Meeting: Issue not on agenda (remove currently scheduled update).
October 9-10	SaMTAAC Meeting
November 2019	Council Meeting: Progress report
Winter 2019-2020	SaMTAAC Meeting (if needed)
March 2020	Council Meeting: Select range of alternatives
September 2020	Council Meeting: Select preliminary preferred alternative
TBD	Council Meeting: Select final preferred alternative

PFMC  
05/29/19